

In support of Bill #5283, I would like to share a high-level summary about how FFA and agriscience education impacted my life. I honestly do not know what I would have done without the experience, friends and opportunities that these classes provided me. They gave me such a secure and confident platform to succeed off of, and I am extremely grateful.

Agriscience Education. For some this is just another class, but to many – this saves them. In high school, class work came easy to me and therefore school was just a thorn in my side. Any excuse I had to ditch school I made and even though I could ace my exams, I was serving lunch detentions for being tardy and getting letters home for too many absences. The caveat to this behavior were my animal science and ag-ed classes. I loved these classes – they allowed me to be active, inquisitive and I learned so much! These classes not only kept me in school, but encouraged me to go to college – which was previously not on my radar.

The basics I learned in ag-Ed translated to a successful college career, where I graduated with a dual major in biology and pre-veterinary medicine and a minor in chemistry. Shockingly, 13 years after my last Ag-ed class, I am working in the medical industry in CT, with a current Masters in Research Administration and am actively pursuing my MBA. I also hold the same position as I did in FFA – Secretary, but this time I am Secretary of my town's civic association.

Beyond keeping me in school, which is no small feat, Ag-Ed classes taught me skills I would have not learned elsewhere. I found my public speaking courage; I gave my first public community presentation; I learned Parliamentary Procedure; I attended a Senate hearing; I learned how to change my oil and sharpen lawnmower blades; I learned how to create a business proposal; I learned how to make a marketing plan, and most importantly I learned that perseverance and hard work do in fact pay off! I am so fortunate to have these experiences and see the difference it made in me and how much it steered my current success.

Please vote this bill forward. So many of today's youth need the skills, the challenge, the diversity that agriscience classes bring in order to find a path for the future and go to it with confidence and pride!

Sincerely,

Ali Borgert, MRA, CRA, MBA Candidate